

CHARAXES JOCASTE BUTLER, 1865 (INSECTA, LEPIDOPTERA):  
PROPOSED SUPPRESSION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS.  
Z.N.(S.) 1806

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The specific name *jocaste* was first used by Doubleday, 1848, in his *List Lepidoptera British Museum*, Appendix: 28.

His name was without description or indication except that he referred to *jocaste* Boisduval MS, and stated that there were two specimens (a and b) from Senegal in the British Museum collection (Mr. Beckers Collection). This name was consequently, a nomen nudum.

2. In 1850, Westwood (in Doubleday and Westwood, *Genera Diurnal Lepidoptera*, 2 : 309, no. 17) referred to *Nymphalis Iocaste*, synonym *Charaxes Iocaste* Boisduval MS. and E. Doubleday, *List Lep. B.M.*, App.: 28. There was no description and this name also was a nomen nudum.

3. In 1865, Butler in a revision of the genus *Charaxes* (*Proc. zool. Soc. London* 1865 : 623-639) included on p. 628 under his section: "Alae fuscae, maculis pallidis submarginata: fascia media fulva, apice antecarum interrupta; posticae margine angusto pallido: subtus lunulis viridi-flavis fasciatae.", four species No. 19 *C. fabius* Fabricius, 1781 (India); no. 20 *C. lampedo* Hübner, date? (loc. unknown); no. 21 *C. iocaste* Doubleday, 1848 (Senegal) and *C. Solan* Fabricius, 1792 (loc. unknown). This name (*iocaste*) was regarded by later workers as a nomen nudum.

In 1866 C. Felder (*Reisde Ost. Freg. Novara.*, Zool. 11, Lepid. II : 446 no. 729) described this specific taxon under the name *Charaxes achaemenes* sp. nov. based on specimens from South Africa: Port Natal, Zambesi, Coll. F.

In 1869 Butler (*Trans. ent. Soc. London* : 274 footnote) wrote: "Felder's *C. achaemenes* is the male of *C. Jocaste*; my sectional description taken in connection with the locality [Senegal], sufficiently characterized the insect, so that Felder's name must sink into a synonym." Most authors however have regarded *jocaste* Butler 1865 as an unavailable name if not a nomen nudum and have accepted *C. achaemenes* Felder, 1826, as the valid name of the taxon.

4. Art. 12 of the International Code states that names published before 1931 must have been accompanied by a description, definition or indication. Now Butler gave a sectional (key) description for 4 species only one of which, that from Senegal, could be *C. jocaste* Butler. Article 16 does not give group description + locality as an indication but some people would regard his argument as sound. This is more so because the two specimens from Senegal seen by Butler in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) are still extant and agree with his description. One of them could be designated lectotype of *Charaxes jocaste* Butler, 1865, if this is regarded as an available name.

5. Later authors have preferred to use *achaemenes* Felder to Butler's doubtfully available name, and *jocaste* Butler has become a nomen oblitum. According to Article 23b such names must not be used but must be submitted to the International Commission, to be placed either on the Official Index or if such

action better serves stability and universality, on the Official List. Unfortunately Article 23b is at present under discussion by the Commission and the Secretariat has been instructed not to publish applications involving this article until some solution of the problem has been reached. In order to maintain the well used name *Charaxes achaemenes* Felder, 1866, it will therefore be necessary to suppress *Charaxes jocaste* Butler, 1865, under the plenary powers in case it is regarded as an available name.

6. The specific taxon *Charaxes achaemenes* C. Felder is now known to comprise several subspecies in various parts of Africa. That found in Senegal will need a new name if its original name *jocaste* Butler is suppressed under the plenary powers. It would be unwise to use the name *jocaste* again and the W. African subspecies will therefore be re-described by me as new.

7. The International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature is therefore requested to decide whether *Charaxes jocaste* Butler, 1865, is an available name and if so to take the following action:

- (1) use its plenary powers to suppress the name *jocaste* Butler, 1865, as published in the binomen *Charaxes jocaste*, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;
- (2) place the specific name *jocaste* Butler, 1865, as published in the binomen *Charaxes jocaste* (as suppressed under (1) above) on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology;
- (3) place the specific name *achaemenes* Felder, 1866, as published in the binomen *Charaxes achaemenes*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

